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Advancing Sustainable Landscapes in the Andean Amazon

Quarterly Report FY 2012 Quarter 2



ECOLEX
CORPORACIÓN DE GESTIÓN Y DERECHO AMBIENTAL



**Rainforest
Alliance**
Alianza para Bosques

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INITIATIVE FOR CONSERVATION IN THE ANDEAN AMAZON

Advancing Sustainable Landscapes in the Andean Amazon

Quarterly Report Quarter 2 FY 2012
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCA	Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica
AFIMAD	Asociación Forestal Indígena de Madre de Dios
AIDER	Asociación para la Investigación y el Desarrollo Integral
ASCART	Asociación de Castañeros de la Reserva Nacional Tambopata
CCNN	Native Indigenous Community
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CWR	Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve
DOI	Department of Interior
Ecolex	Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental
ECORAE	Instituto para el Ecodesarrollo Regional Amazónico
FY	Fiscal Year
IMA	Water Management Institute (Instituto de Manejo de Agua y Medio Ambiente)
IR	Intermediate Result
ISU	ICAA Support Unit
MAE	Environmental Ministry Ecuador (Ministerio de Ambiente)
MINAM	Environmental Ministry Peru (Ministerio de Ambiente)
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PMP	Performance Management Plan
SENASA	National Service for Sanitary Agriculture Peru (Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria)
SERNANP	National Service for Protected Natural Areas Peru (Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas)
SL	Advancing Sustainable Landscapes in the Andean Amazon
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1 GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

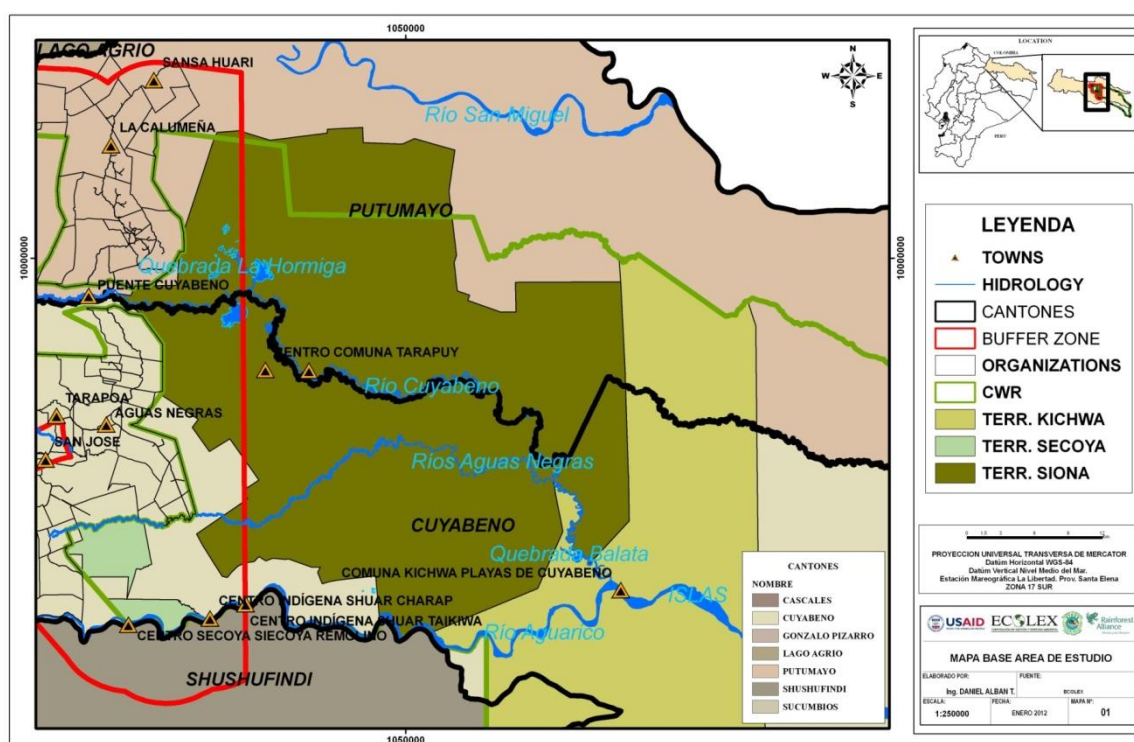
Sucumbíos Landscape

The Advancing Sustainable Landscapes in the Andean Amazon (SL) is working in the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve (CWR) and the buffer zone of located in the Sucumbíos province. During the period, SL selected the following 10 pre-associations located in the Cuyabeno buffer zone in the Palma Roja parroquia (3,954 inhabitants), part of Putumayo canton, the Aguas Negras parroquia (1,463 habitantes) and the Tarapoa parroquia (5,278 inhabitants) in the Cuyabeno canton:

San José (Tarapoa), La Calumeña, 16 de Abril, Brisas de Cuyabeno, Flor de Oriente, 3 de Mayo, Tigre Grande, Nuevo Milenio, Unión Agrícola, Jaime Roldos.

Within the CWR, in addition to the Putumayo and Cuyabeno cantons, we will also work in the Shushufindi canton. The geographic focus includes the area from the bridge over the Cuyabeno River east to the Siona communities of Tarabeia (previously known as Tarapuy), San Victoriano, and Puerto Bolívar. We will also work with the Secoya community of Siecoya Remolino, which is located in the buffer zone of the CWR.

Comunidad	Nacionalidad	Nº Familias	Población	Territorio
Puerto Bolívar	Siona	15	105	130.844,17
Tarapuy	Siona	19	100	
San Victoriano	Siona	9	35	
Secoya Remolino	Secoya	30	170	24.214,097



Madre de Dios/Cusco Landscape

In the Madre de Dios section of the Madre de Dios/Cusco landscape, we will work in the Province and District of Tambopata with the follow stakeholders:

Indigenous Communities (CCNN):

CCNN Tres Islas, with an extension of 32,000 ha and population of 217 (according with last population census, in 2007) - Shipibo-Ese'Eja ethnicity.

CCNN de Palma Real, with an extension of 8000 ha and population of 239 (according to 2007 census) - Ese'Eja ethnicity.

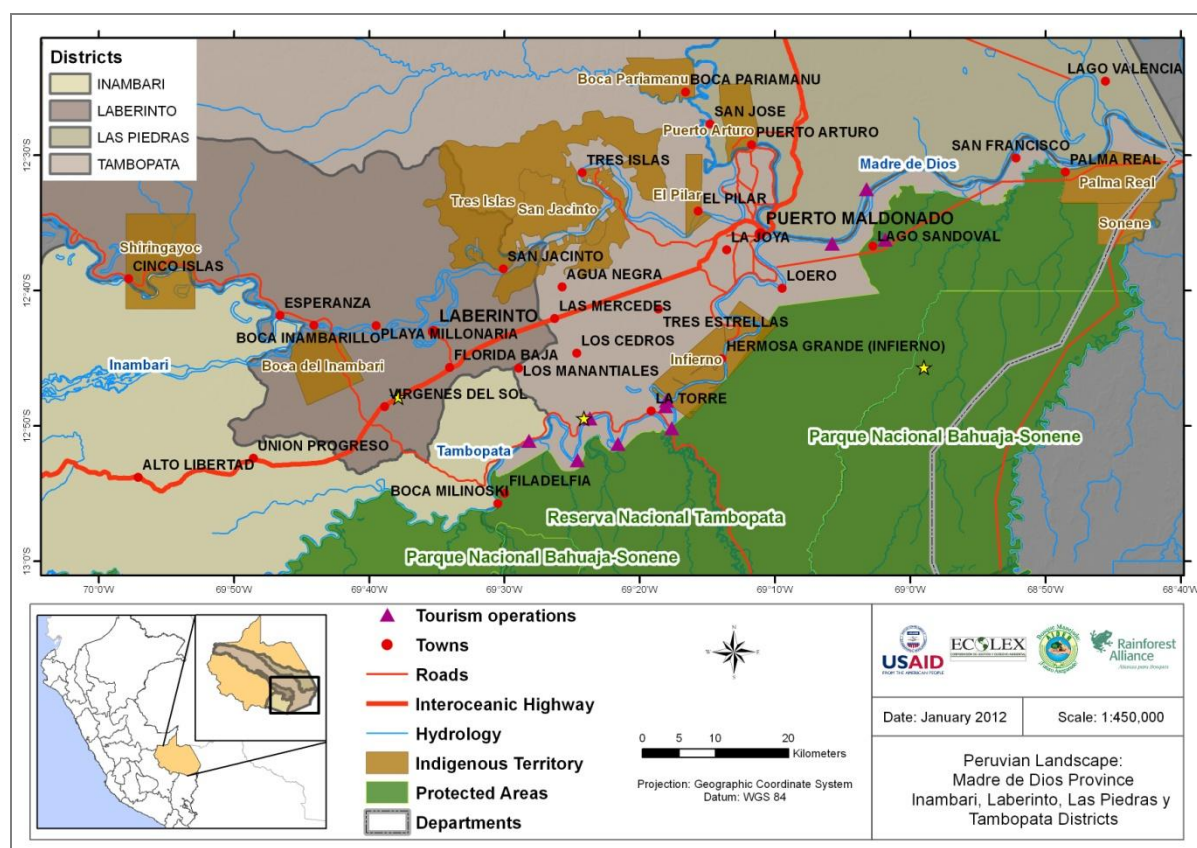
CCNN de Infierno, with an extension of 9000 ha and estimated population of 256 (Census 2007) - Ese'Eja ethnicity.

CCNN Sonene, with an extension of 3,857 ha - Ese'Eja ethnicity.

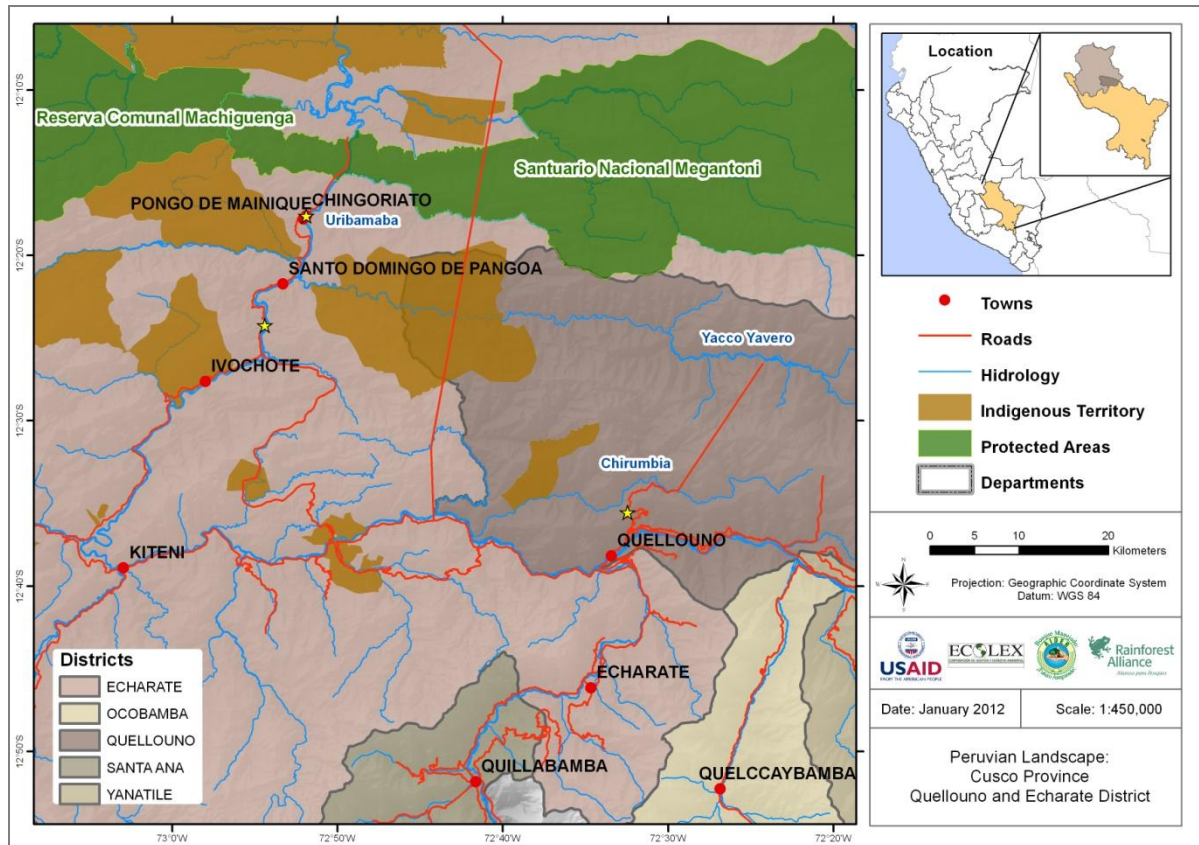
CCNN Puerto Arturo, with an extension of 3,740 ha - Kichuaruna ethnicity.

CCNN San Jacinto, extensión of 18,803 ha - Shipibo ethnicity.

The Filadelfia area and surroundings, represented by the Asociación de Productores de Filadelfia, and various tourism operations in the upper and middle Tambopata, with approximately 600 ha.



In the Cusco section of the Madre de Dios/Cusco landscape, we will work in the La Convencion and Calca Provinces, and Quellouno and Echarate (La Convención) and Yanatile (Calca) Districts. These areas are found within the Ivochote and Laco – Yavero watershed, which has an extension of approximately 13,500 ha, and includes the towns of Ivochote and Pangoa.



2 APPROACH TO COLLABORATION

The SL approach to collaborating with other ICAA II participant and other stakeholders working within the landscapes is to align our strategies and actions with those of the other stakeholders to ensure we take advantage of potential synergies, compliment efforts, and avoid duplication.

To date, illustrative examples of the results of this integrated approach to collaboration include:

Government

- Meetings with national government actors in Ecuador and Peru

In Peru, progress toward collaboration with the government was made through the participation in planning actions at national level, mainly with the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) and the Regional Government of Madre de Dios (GOREMAD). We are participating in building a national and regional platform (Madre de Dios) to promote community forestry in the Amazon, together with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, MINAM, Council of Amazonian Regional Governments (CIAM), and the Peru Forest Sector Initiative of the United States (PFSI), among others.

We also contributed to the development of a road map for Madre de Dios Region development initiatives supported by USAID and partners by providing information for developing the matrix of projects and initiatives being implemented in the region. The objective of the matrix is to serve as a tool for improving coordination between implementers and GOREMAD offices. We also agreed to coordinate an economic development working group in collaboration with Regional Office of Economic Development.

We are also developing a partnership with GOREMAD's Agrarian Regional Office under the framework of the AGROIDEAS Program, where we will help support forest users in the Tambopata Reserve and its buffer zone that are mainly producing and collecting brazil nut and palm fruits "ungurahui" (Jesennibatava), by supporting the development and implementation of business plans.

The ICAA Support Unit and Environmental Ministry of Sucumbíos Province held a workshop (6th and 7th of February) to systematize ongoing projects in the area and identify common activities; the main result is a matrix with activities to be implemented by each entity;

Held meetings with the chief of land use development plan (Plan de Desarrollo y Ordenamiento Territorial) department Edwin Herrera to explain objectives, results and activities of ICAA II and identification of areas of collaboration particularly related to indigenous groups inside the CWR

Held coordination meetings with ECORAE related to the Circunscripciones Territoriales Indígenas law and potential lines of action. One area of future collaboration that was identified is the elaboration of life plans for indigenous groups. A follow-up meeting is planned.

ICAA Support Unit (ISU)

We participated in meetings and workshops covering varying topics in support of the ICAA Support Unit initiatives and to identify areas of potential collaboration between the two entities.

- Participation in two gender workshops in Lima (January) and Quito (March) to help develop the ICAA gender and partner institutional strategies, and begin understanding how to include a gender perspective in the project activities. A result of the workshops was that RA and its partners have been evaluated, mainly in terms of the institutional commitments and policies in place, and also the level of gender knowledge by its managers. These analyses are considered a starting point for the development of specific guidelines in gender issues at project and institutional levels. The ISU also provided feedback on the gender consultancy TORs that the project is developing.
- Participation in the communication's strategy meeting to review communication strategy for ICAA II and define responsibilities for consortia and Support Unit. Some results included: communication at the national and regional level will be covered by the ISU, while the consortia are in charge of local communications. Topics yet to be addressed include who will monitor publications at the national level to identify news that could impact ICAA II activities, and how more costly communications tools such as press trips will be financed.
- We held meetings with the ISU Knowledge Management team to review knowledge management strategies and exchange ideas on information platforms. Results included the identification of knowledge management strategy improvements.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: ISU submitted the Performance Management Plan (PMP) for the ICAA II shared indicators; our consortia selected, defined and adapted the indicators based on the definitions of general PMP; consortia PMP will be sent to USAID on April 30. The sustainable livelihoods landscape will include source and methods for data collection, frequency and data limitations.
- We participated in the geographic information systems working group, where we identified technical expertise and explored strategies for collecting available GIS information from each consortia;
- We participated in the ISU workshops in Ecuador and Peru, where they presented their reports on natural resource governance, environmental policy, and indigenous group issues.

Other ICAA II partners

- The SL confirmed its participation in The Nature Conservancy and Sucumbíos Provincial government workshop on Landscape Planning to be held in Lago Agrio, the first week of April 2012.
- The existence of potential synergies between ICAA II partners working in Madre de Dios related to thematic implementation areas, actors and similar geographic areas provides reason to coordination efforts from the beginning of implementation of activities. To work toward this collaboration, in January of the reporting period, the

ISU and the ICAA consortia with projects in Madre de Dios met to complete a matrix of interventions in the region. There was not enough time to complete the activity, but the initiative provided the basis for identifying which organizations and groups have more need to adjust and coordinate their work plans amongst each other.

- We held several meetings with the Purús – Manu consortia led by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to integrate efforts related to a REDD+ project being developed with Asociación Forestal Indígena de Madre de Dios (AFIMAD) and some of their communities. Both consortiums agreed to jointly support the native communities of Infierno, Tres Islas and Palma Real. WWF will develop a Project Design Document (PDD) in each community with funds from Inter-American Development Bank, and SL will support the technical issues surrounding forest management.
- With support from the US Forest Service, we planned on sending Mr. Luis Borbor, the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve Director, to a workshop in Bogota on protected area management, but unfortunately due a personal emergency, Mr. Borbor was unable to attend at the last minute.
- The SL FY12 work plan was shared with the US Forest Service and SilvaCarbon to help identify potential areas of collaboration.
- We participated in the Higher Education for Development workshop to obtain input on priorities for improving the standard of education and how to articulate education with indigenous peoples.
- We held discussions with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to coordinate forest studies in Sucumbíos Province. The studies would focus on productivity and economic cost/benefit analysis of artisanal and industrial wood, and the costs of the formalization/legalization of forest management in Ecuador comparing Forest Administration System I with II.

Other initiatives:

- We held meetings with Tetra Tech ARD, Fundacion Natura Ecuador, and others to explore areas of potential collaboration on REDD+ policy and, more concretely, on enhancing collaboration with broader USAID (e.g. Forest Carbon, Markets and Communities, FCMC, Silvacarbon, and the US Forest Service) and other donor-funded initiatives.
- We also held meetings with the Asociacion para la Conservacion de la Cuenca Amazonica (ACCA) in Peru with the aim of complementing financial and technical resources to support organic and fair trade certification of brazil nut production in four AFIMAD communities; results included specific commitments for collaboration over the next two years.
- We held meetings with Candela Peru (supported by the Fund for the Americas - FONDAM) with the objective identifying complementary activities in support of the production chain of “ungurahui” in the native communities of Boca Pariamanu and Tres Islas, where Candela Peru acts as a business partner, while we provide technical assistance in forest management. In 2012, we will prioritize carrying out forest inventories for the forest management plans, defining a business model, and supporting the organization of producers for associative business with Candela Peru.

- Held meetings with the PROMUNI Project in Ecuador, a project focused strengthening the capacity of municipalities, to establish synergies between the two projects.

3 NEW & EXISTING CHALLENGES

Several challenges were identified and reported during the first trimester of fiscal year 2012. This section addresses these challenges (noted in italics), in addition to a few new challenges encountered during the current reporting period.

Work Plan

Challenges

- *Delay in implementing activities has created some uncertainty on the part of Project stakeholders.*
- The political situation between the government of Ecuador and the United States has caused a delay in implementation in the Ecuador landscape due to the fact that the former has sent a mandate to the provincial MAE authorities to not get involved in the project until the existing issues have been resolved.

Progress

- Since SL partners have working relationships with some of the principal stakeholders in the landscape of Madre de Dios/Cusco, we do not think that there will be significant issues related to the delay. Nevertheless, we informed the stakeholders about the processes for approval of work plans and other approvals required to begin full scale field operations. GOREMAD, mainly the Natural Resources Office, MINAM and the chiefs of the protected areas included in Tambopata, Amarakaeri and Megantoni, have received information from the ICAA II project, and the potential synergies with these protected areas management.
- In Cusco, we carried out additional field visits and interviews with representatives of the municipalities Echarati, Quellouno, producer association leaders and tourism entrepreneurs to keep them informed about opportunities to support the project, which led to the identification of priority areas of intervention in the landscape.

Personnel and office support structure

- *The proposed Policy Advisor, Patricio Hernandez, accepted a job as an advisor to the Ecuadorian government during the period before the Project was approved. We identified a potential candidate to replace Mr. Hernandez that is currently being evaluated.*
- The project Finance Officer, Maria Mercedes Proaño left RA.

Progress

- Selection and presentation of a new candidate for the Policy Advisor position, Martha Puga. We are currently waiting for USAID approval of the candidate.
- A replacement candidate for Finance Officer has been identified and will be presented to USAID for approval in the month of April.

- After an evaluation of the work demands in the buffer zone Megantoni, we decided to strengthen the technical field team an additional agronomists. We are currently recruiting for the two agronomists.
- We opened our project office in Lima, and are currently working on setting up the office, including legal compliance.

Sub agreements and contracts

- *To comply with the substantial involvement clause (A.10) of the cooperative agreement that requires USAID approval of sub grant and consultant agreement templates, on November 21st we submitted the respective templates to our AOR and AO for approval.*

Progress

- As a prior step to signing the agreements with the SL partners, the project Finance Officer carried out visits to evaluate partner policies and administrative processes, which concluded in specific requests for improvement and implementation of activities aimed at improving their administrative management.
- In January, we received notice that we would no longer be required to obtain approval from USAID for the sub grant and consultant agreement templates, and subsequently would be receiving a contract amendment to reflect this.

Even though at the end of the reporting period we still had not received the amended contract allowing us to sign cooperative agreements with project partners, during the reporting period we continued refining implementation agreements will all partners to prepare for signing once the amendments are received. It is important to note that our inability to sign sub grant and consultant agreements during the first six months of implementation has caused a delay in implementation and cash flow challenges for the partners.

4 INTERMEDIATE RESULTS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Based on the ICAA II Results Framework, the preliminary shared indicators for ICAA II, and the proposed landscape indicators, the majority of our work will fall under IR 1: Selected landscapes sustainably managed and IR 2 Key Elements of Natural Resource Governance Functioning in Critical locations, while our work linking project stakeholders with payment for environmental services schemes in Ecuador for example will fall under IR 3. Since just about all of the Intermediate Results challenges and accomplishments reported in this period are applicable to all three of the relevant IRs, to simplify the report, we elected not to disaggregate them by individual IR. However, the specific activities carried out are disaggregated by landscape.

The main accomplishments during the period for both landscapes were related to refining project activities through gaining an improved understanding of the landscape contexts, while also strengthening collaboration with government, NGO, and other stakeholders working in the areas. In addition to the activities mentioned in the collaboration section of this report, the activities carried out to achieve this are outlined in the landscape sections below.

4.1 Regional level

Consultancies

- The scope of work for the Environmental Assessment for SL forestry activities has been developed and a qualified candidate to carry out the consultancy in Peru and Ecuador has been identified. The consultancy will be carried out beginning in May, after the Initial Environmental Evaluation is finalized.
- Several members of SL attended the gender workshops put on by the ICAA II support unit. The details of a scope of work for incorporating gender into the project activities were discussed with the support unit. We hope to begin the consultancy in May or June to ensure that the gender strategy and action plan are finalized by the end of the year as agreed upon with the ISU.

4.2 Sucumbíos Landscape, Ecuador

Activity progress

- Socio-economic and geographic baseline: secondary socio-economic information was collected and a draft version of the document has been elaborated; basic and thematic geographic information has been collected and organized.
- Selection of 10 pre-cooperatives based on geographic and ecological information.
- A preliminary curriculum for institutional and community capacity building was developed and will be presented to the local stakeholders for their feedback.
- Facilitation of a workshop to deal with the territorial conflict between the Siona community of Puerto Bolívar and Kichwa community of Playas de Cuyabeno organized by the Ministry of Environment (MAE) in the Sucumbíos Province. The

workshop resulted in an agreement to apply the June 2008 resolution that defined the limits between the two communities.

- A diagnostic study to identify actual tourism activities in the CWR was carried out together with Fundación Natura and MAE to update the sustainable tourism component of the CWR management plan.
- A US Department of Interior (DOI) specialist visited CWR to identify key topics for the sustainable tourism strategy.
- Held meetings on security issues in the CWR with MAE, the Tourism Ministry, the private sector and other key stakeholders. Results included the identification of actions to be taken by each of the organizations to address the occurrence of a robbery in the Reserve. This topic was added to ICAA II activities after a robbery of tourists in February in the CWR to support the implementation of ICAA II tourism activities.
- In coordination with the Putumayo Tres Fronteras project, we accompanied a consultant who carried out a diagnostic of CWR to establish a regulatory framework for tourist activities in CWR.

4.3 Madre de Dios/Cusco Landscape, Perú

Activity progress

We began carrying out a socio-economic and natural resource analysis in the buffer zone of the Tambopata Reserve to serve as the basis for natural resource zoning and planning by conducting field visits and holding meetings with residents and leaders of the Association of Producers of Philadelphia - Upper Tambopata in January 2012.

We also began coordinating with the Interoceanic Highway Sustainable Tourism Project (ISUR) to initiate training in good practices and the implementation of global sustainable tourism criteria for ten tourism enterprises located in the middle and lower Tambopata interested in being incorporated into the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Tourism Program. In addition, we began identifying areas with tourism potential in terms of biodiversity and cultural attractions in the Community of Palma Real, where we are also working in forestry.

In the Quillabamba area, we carried out field visits and held meetings with representatives of Echarati Municipality, Water Management Institute (IMA), Chief of the Megantoni Sanctuary, the Quellouno District Mayor, and representatives of cooperatives and farm leaders. In several cases, the local stakeholders demonstrated their interest in participating in the three components of the ICAA II Project; a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or agreement is being developed for this purpose.

We also collaborated with AFIMAD and USAID's PRA project to help the former prepare applications for the AGROIDEAS Fund, a Ministry of Agriculture program. AFIMAD is seeking funding to improve Brazil nut harvesting and transportation technology.

We facilitated the building of commercial alliances between palm producers - Association de Palmicultores de San Juan (PALSAMAD) and Candela Peru, and between the Brazil Nut Association (ASCART) and the company Agrícolas y Forestales SAC. We are providing technical assistance to ASCART's 25 partners for access to organic certification.

In the buffer zone of the Santuario Nacional de Megantoni (Quillabamba, Cusco), we organized a three-day workshop with key stakeholders from local governments and private companies to discuss the technical requirements for increased productivity and quality of cocoa. Participants included Municipalities of La Convention and Echarati, Agrarian Health Service of the Ministry of Agriculture (SENASA), San Cristobal de Huamanga University of Cusco, and Central COCLA.

Finally, we obtained the commitment of the company Delicafe from Costa Rica to make long-term purchases of coffee producers who meet their requirements. We also made an agreement with Verde Ventures, an initiative promoted by Conservation International, to visit the project area in the near future (August) in order to evaluate the possibility of granting loans to producers for the rehabilitation of coffee and cocoa plantations.